

New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

Contact:

Nancy Benecki, Public Information Officer (201) 460-4662 nancy.benecki@njmeadowlands.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 31, 2006

NJMC Offers Canoe Tours of the Hackensack River

Special Father's Day Trip Added to this Summer's Schedule

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is offering a chance to get a closer look at the natural wonders of the Meadowlands this summer through a series of guided canoe tours.

Canoe tours give paddlers a front row view of the lively habitats of Sawmill Creek in Lyndhurst and the Mill Creek Marsh in Secaucus, where tree swallows, great egrets, snowy egrets, double-crested cormorants, muskrats, diamond-back terrapins and fiddler crabs and other critters can be seen.

For the Dad who already has everything or who is an avid outdoorsman, sign up for a special Father's Day canoe tour on June 18. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Canoe tours are part of a number of family-oriented, eco-tourism opportunities in the Meadowlands, which also include catch-and-release fishing, pontoon boat cruises and hiking trails at DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, Mill Creek Point Park in Secaucus and other locations. The NJMC is working with the New Jersey Audubon Society on guide of birding, fishing and hiking trails in the Meadowlands that will be released this summer. The guide will be available in English and Spanish.

Canoe tours are led by NJMC staff members who are knowledgeable about wildlife and the history of the Meadowlands. Tourists should be at least 10 years old and have some canoeing experience. Pre-registration is required. The cost of the tour is \$15 per person which includes canoe rental.

Canoe tours are scheduled for the following dates:

- June 18 at 10 a.m., exploring Mill Creek or Sawmill Creek,
- July 15 at 8:30 a.m., exploring Sawmill Creek,
- August 19 at 10 a.m., exploring Mill Creek or Sawmill Creek.

To register for a canoe tour, please call Gabrielle Bennett-Meany at (201) 460-4640.

#####